



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 1117**

---

**Chairperson:**        **Kermit A. Brashear**  
**Committee:**        **Judiciary**  
**Date of Hearing:**    **January 29, 2004**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1117 allows the Department of Correctional Services, with the approval of the Parole Board, to authorize any parole eligible inmate to reside in a community-based program under the terms of the community furlough program. A community-based program is defined as a facility, institution or residence not operated by the Department including, but not limited to halfway houses, mental health, alcohol or drug treatment and counseling facilities, or a private residence where the inmate is involved in education, mental health, alcohol, or drug treatment programming, vocational training, or gainfully employed.

The community furlough can last up to 90 days and may involve electronic monitoring or other supervision as required by the Board and the Department. A community furlough can be terminated at any time by order of the Board or the Department with the inmate being immediately returned to an institution operated by the Department of Correctional Services. An inmate who successfully participates in the community furlough program shall be eligible for successive furloughs.

An inmate who willfully fails to remain within the limits of the furlough program or who does not return to the institution as requested will be guilty of escape.

The intent of this bill is to provide another tool for the Department of Correctional Services and the Parole Board to use to help parole eligible inmates transition successfully into the community.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Dwite Pedersen**